



(19)

Europäisches Patentamt

European Patent Office

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(11)

EP 0 920 185 A3

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(88) Date of publication A3:
24.10.2001 Bulletin 2001/43

(51) Int Cl.7: H04N 1/32

(43) Date of publication A2:
02.06.1999 Bulletin 1999/22

(21) Application number: 98120637.8

(22) Date of filing: 03.11.1998

(84) Designated Contracting States:
**AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU
 MC NL PT SE**
 Designated Extension States:
AL LT LV MK RO SI

(30) Priority: 07.11.1997 JP 30609897
10.07.1998 JP 19636198(71) Applicant: **MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC INDUSTRIAL CO., LTD.**
Kadoma-shi, Osaka 571-8501 (JP)(72) Inventors:

- Inoue, Hisashi
Fukuoka-shi, Fukuoka-ken (JP)
- Iwasaki, Shiro
Iizuka-shi, Fukuoka-ken (JP)

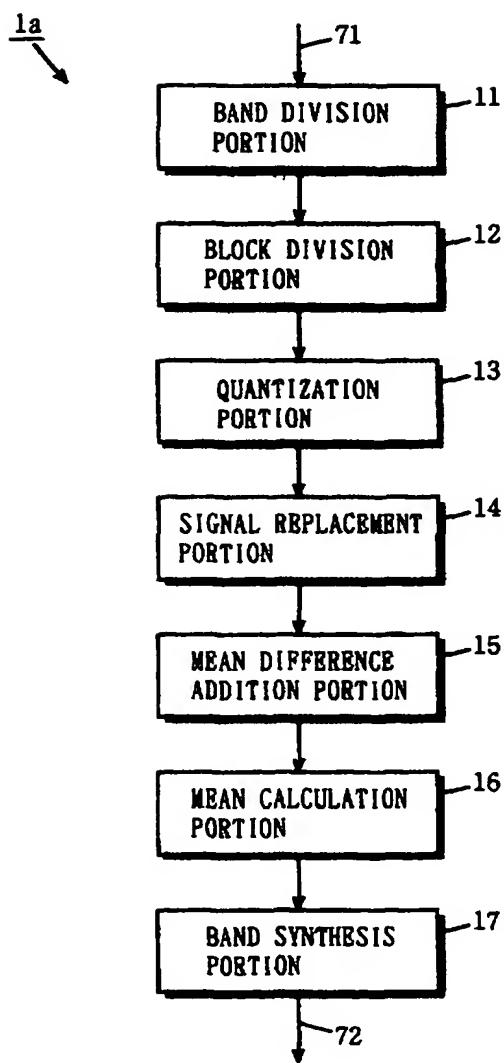
- Shimazu, Mikio
Kasuya-gun, Fukuoka-ken (JP)
- Ojima, Shuichi
Fukuoka-shi, Fukuoka-ken (JP)
- Katsura, Takashi
Fukuoka-shi, Fukuoka-ken (JP)
- Miyazaki, Akio
Fukuoka-shi, Fukuoka-ken (JP)
- Hatae, Eiichi
Fukuoka-shi, Fukuoka-ken (JP)

(74) Representative: **Altenburg, Udo, Dipl.-Phys. et al
Patent- und Rechtsanwälte
Bardehle - Pagenberg - Dost - Altenburg -
Geissler - Isenbruck,
Galileiplatz 1
81679 München (DE)**(54) **Apparatus for and method of embedding and extracting digital information and medium having program for carrying out the method recorded thereon**

(57) A band division portion 11 receives an image signal 71, and divides the image signal 71 into 10 frequency bands by discrete wavelet transform, to calculate transform coefficients. A block division portion 12 divides an LL3 signal obtained by the division into a plurality of blocks previously determined. A quantization portion 13 finds for each of the blocks a mean value M of the transform coefficients, and subjects M to linear quantization using a quantization step-size Q previously determined, to calculate a quantization value q. A signal replacement portion 14 replaces q with q' on the basis of the value of digital information to be embedded. A mean difference addition portion 15 subjects q' to inverse linear quantization using Q, to find a mean value M', calculates a difference DM between M' and M, and adds the difference to the transform coefficients in the block. A mean calculation portion 16 calculates a mean value LM of the transform coefficients after the addition. A band synthesis portion 17 synthesizes the LL3 signal which has been subjected to the embedding processing and a signal in the other frequency band, to reconstruct

an image signal 72. Further, the band division portion 11 receives a digitized image signal 71, and divides the image signal 71 into 10 frequency bands by discrete wavelet transform, to calculate transform coefficients. A map information generation portion 52 generates, with respect to one of the 10 frequency bands, map information indicating whether or not the absolute amplitude values of all the transform coefficients in the same space representation region in the same direction of division as the frequency band are not more than a set value R. A signal replacement portion 53 refers to the value of each of the transform coefficients in the map information, and replaces, when the value of the transform coefficient is not more than the set value R, the value with another value in accordance with the digital information to be embedded. A band synthesis portion 17 synthesizes signals in the 10 frequency bands each including the replaced transform coefficients, to reconstruct an image signal 75.

F I G. 1





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| Category | Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages | Relevant to claim | | | |
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| <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 5px;">TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 5px;">H04N G06T</td> </tr> </table> | | | | TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6) | H04N G06T |
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| Place of search | Date of completion of the search | Examiner | | | |
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| CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS | | T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document | | | |
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ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.

EP 98 12 0637

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
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